

Flathead County Coalition  
1027 Hwy 2 East  
Kalispell, MT 59901

Dear Senators and Representatives;

As many of you know, as members, the Flathead County Coalition is a group of local elected officials and community leaders that meet to discuss issues effecting the taxpayers and residents of Flathead County. We work together to determine which issues are important to the public we serve and endorse or otherwise support policies, legislation or actions which resolve issues or have a positive impact on business and our constituents.

There are many issues confronting our legislature this year, and several that are of deep importance to the taxpayers of Flathead County. With unemployment hovering at over 12%, we need strong leadership with the intestinal fortitude to make significant changes that will positively impact our residents. To this end, we, as the Flathead County Coalition urge the Montana Legislature to do the following:

- 1). Eliminate the Business Equipment Tax with as minimal impact to local government's revenues as possible.
- 2). Protect our water quality and quantity by protecting exempt wells and the rights of municipalities to obtain a water rights permit to provide adequate quality and supply of water to their citizens. In addition, please ensure adequate science-based rather than politically motivated regulations are implemented to protect our water quality.

3). Adopt Montana Workmen's Compensation reform that creates parity in rates with all surrounding states, so that we can compete for businesses from the same starting point as our bordering states.

4). Revise Montana tax statutes to make capital gains rates as competitive as possible with other states and

5). Streamline regulations and requirements on business in all areas.

In a time of recession, this Legislature has a great opportunity to make significant positive changes in regulations and legislation that benefit all Montanans. We believe it is imperative that the Legislature makes clear that "Montana is open for business". The foregoing actions will go far in ensuring Montana comes in line with other states in competing for new business and in developing opportunities for existing business expansion. We thank you for your continuing commitment to public service and for fostering a business friendly environment in the State of Montana.

Respectfully submitted:

NAME

ELECTED OFFICE OR OCCUPATION

SIGNATURE

Jeff Zimmerman	Kalispell City Council	[Signature]
Don Barnhart	Mayor City of Columbia Falls	[Signature]
Sam Holmquist	Flathead Co. Commissioners	[Signature]
JEFF LARSEN	ENGINEER/SURVEYOR	[Signature]
M. DUANE LARSON	Kalispell City Council	[Signature]
TJ Wendt	Insurance agent	[Signature]